Fourteenth Loksabha

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Participants : Regupathy Shri S.,Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan,Ramachandran Shri Gingee N,Appadurai Shri M.,Kumar Shri Shailendra,Regupathy Shri S.,Ramadass Prof. M.,Singh Shri Ganesh Prasad,Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar,Krishnaswamy Shri A.,Athawale Shri Ramdas,Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

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Title : Discussion on the motion for consideration of the Pondicherry (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006 as passed by Rajya Sabha, moved by Shri S. Reghupathy on behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil (Motion adopted and Bill Passed).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up Item No. 16 – Pondicherry (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Sir, I may be permitted to move that the Bill to alter the name of the Union Territory of Pondicherry, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration. At the same time, I want to say a few words.

Pondicherry became a Union territory on 16th August, 1962. The Union Territory of Pondicherry has been named in Schedule I Part II of the Constitution as `Pondicherry'. But it is a long pending issue and the people of Pondicherry have been demanding renaming of Pondicherry to Puducherry as the territory was known in ancient times. It came to be pronounced as Pondicherry by foreign rulers.

The Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry passed an official resolution in its meeting held on 15th October, 1980 to request the Government of India to pass necessary legislation for altering the name of Pondicherry. The proposal was also approved by the then Council of Ministers of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Council of Ministers of the Government of Pondicherry in their meeting held on 30th July, 1996 reiterated their request for changing the name of Pondicherry as Puducherry and forwarded that proposal to the Government of India for approval. The Chief Minister of Pondicherry in his letter dated 29.4.1999 again reiterated the proposal.

The name of a State/UT can be changed by an Act of Parliament under Article 3 of the Constitution. In the case of States, the President of India obtains views of the State Legislature before recommending any Bill for change of name of the State to be introduced in Parliament. However, in the case of Union Territories, such consultation is not necessary due to Explanation I to

the Article 3 of the Constitution. However, the Legislative Assembly of UT of Pondicherry also passed a Resolution requesting for change of name.

Sir, with these few words, I commend this Bill to this august House for approval.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to alter the name of the Union Territory of Pondicherry, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. M. Ramadass. You can speak for five minutes.

… (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): Sir, I am the lone Lok Sabha from Pondicherry. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that.

… (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I should explain the rationale as to why we are asking for the change in the name. … (*Interruptions*) One hour has been allotted for this Bill. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, in the BAC, one hour was allotted to this Bill. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know it. The Minister has already taken three minutes.

… (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, then, why are you saying that I have to speak for five minutes? … (*Interruptions*)

*PROF. M. RAMADASS : Hon. Chairman, Sir, let me express my views on this Bill that is before this august House to alter the name of Pondicherry as 'Puducherry' sound echoing the sentiments of Tamils enjoining itself with our ancient language Tamil and its culture. When I am to speak about 'Puducherry' and 'Tamil' I can not but recall the great son of our soil, Revolutionary poet Bharathidasan. He sang,

"Engal Vazhvum Engal Valamum

Mangatha Thamizh Endru Sangey Muzhangu"

[Let the conch shell declare that never waning Thamizh is our life and prosperity.]

I would also like to recall what that emperor like great poet has to say about Thamizh. He wrote,

"Karumbu Thantha Theencharey

Kazhi Thantha Narunchulaiyey

Kavin Sei Mullai Arumbu Thantha Vennagaiyey

Ani Thantha Senthamizhey, Anbey"

[Thamizh is like the sweet juice of the sugar cane, pleasurable treat of jack fruit, white innocent smile of the just blossoming Mullai flower and that Thamizh stands for love and affection.]

I am happy to speak in Thamizh that stands for glory and grandeur, love and affection. I also feel happy that it has been accorded the classical language status.

To-day our land of birth gets its history rewritten. It is a golden lettered day. From being called as 'Pondicherry' our territory is being renamed as 'Puducherry' to regain its glory. It is a victory for Thamizh, the Thamizhs and the Thamizh culture. It is a day for rejoicing.

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

This has been given as a pleasant gift to the people of Puducherrry by our beloved Chairperson Madam Sonia Gandhi the President of UPA and the world renowned economist and our able and dynamic Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. I thank both of them on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu. At the same time I would like to thank heartily our Hon. Minister of State of Home Affairs thiru Reghupathy for piloting this Bill.

At this juncture I would like to bestow our grateful acknowledgements to Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the great world renowned versatile thamizh scholar. It is the DMK under his leadership and the then Congress Party which is now under the leadership of Madam Sonia Gandhi that forged an alliance in 1980 to form a Government then and passed a resolution for the first time in their legislative Assembly to rename 'Pondicherry' as 'Puducherry'.

Again in 1996, when there was DMK Government with Thiru R.V. Janakiraman as its Chief Minister a resolution to alter the name Pondicherry as Puducherry was passed in the Pondicherry Legislative Assembly and sent to the Centre. Let me thank on behalf of the people of Pondicherry and on my own behalf, the leader of DMK and the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi for initiating this move in right earnest. It is needless to mention about our

PMK founder-leader and the Chairperson of Social Justice and the cause of Thamizh and Thamizh culture Dr. Ramadoss 'Ayya'. as the President of Tamil Protection Forum he has been ceaselessly serving to preserve the glory of Thamizh and he has also appealed to the Governments to rename Pondicherry as Puducherry. It is he who has sent me as lone representative of Pondicherry and instructed me to take efforts towards the alteration of the name of Pondicherry as Puducherry. I took his order. Papers that were pending for the past 25 years were taken up again when I took it up with the officials. I have met the officials and the Minister in the Home Ministry in this regard many times in the last two years. As for me I am a contented man to-day. I have been able to fulfil the wishes of the public and our popular leader. Our founder-leader Dr. Ramadoss Ayya was a guiding spirit to accomplish this and I extend my heartfelt thanks to him for he had been a catalyst to bring about this change. I welcome the Bill introduced by the Hon. Minister of State of Home Affairs to effect this change which remained as a long pending demand. The aims and objects of this Bill are commendable. This has been evolved properly. Through this Bill, Pondicherry Union Territory is sought to be renamed as Puducherry Union Territory, wherever we find the word Pondicherry in the Indian Constitution it would henceforth be changed to Puducherry, the word 'Pondicherry' appearing in the second part of the first Schedule of the constitution will be changed to Puducherry, the word 'Pondicherry' will be changed to Puducherry in clause 30 of 4th schedule of the constitution, in the sub clause V in clause 2 Territory Act 1961, of Pondicherry Union the name pondicherry will be changed to Puducherry, similarly all the Acts will have name Puducherry incorporated within an year and nothing shall come in their may in enacting suitable laws, Judicial Courts and Tribunals shall carry out these alternatives, in whichever ease or hearing before any court of law the word 'Pondicherry' appears it will be changed to Puducherry.

Now, this Bill with these eight features seeks to remove from history the name Pondicherry that was given to it by the Britishers. Henceforth, Pondicherry will be its legally approved legitimate name. There are two important reasons for my supporting this Bill.

Number one, we are taking corrective measures to a mistake committed in the history. It would be appropriate to point out what was that.

It is said that Pondicherry came into existence some 12000 years ago. What is found to be a coastal town was once a small village of fishermen. This is what historians have to say. During the ancient times, it was called 'Vedapuram' or 'Vedipuri'. The great sage 'Agastya' came to this place to contribute to its glorious values. Pondicherry was denoted as Agastheeswaram. We can divide this 12,000 years history of Pondicherry into four parts. The first one was ancient period, the second one was the kings' age, the third was the colonial era and the fourth was freedom struggle period. The ancient people of Pondicherry had trade links with the ancient Romans. The archaeological excavations found in Arickamedu near Ariyan Kuppam provides some evidence in this regard. Then Pondicherry came under the Pallava Dynasty, Chola Empire and then Pandya Kingdom. The age of kings gave place to the colonial era. The Portuguese, the Danish, the Dutch, the French and the Britishers ruled Pondicherry continuously. The French rule extended for a longer period precisely to 138 years, one month and five days. The Pondicherry got its freedom on 1st of November, 1954. It was annexed to the Indian Union in 1963 to become a Union Territory.

Periphles, the Greek Scholar, referred to Pondicherry as 'Pauduke' in 16 A.D. In a map that was drawn by another Greek Scholar Thalame in 200 A.D., Pondicherry is referred to as 'Pauduke' or 'Puducherry'. In the Portuguese records, when they point to their business houses in the Coramandel Coast, their effort to 'Puducherry' as 'Pudushaira'.

Pauduke in Roman references and Pudushaira in Portuguese records are similar to its ancient name Puducherry.

Ancient Tamils called a place 'Cherry' which used to have people of same race living together. The place where 'Pallar' lived was called 'Patcherry'. The places where 'Aayars' (shepherds) lived were called 'Aayacherry'. The places where 'Brahamins' lived were called 'Parppanacherry'.

Similarly, the fishermen who lived in this part taking up fishing and export and import of goods as their occupation formed a new 'Cherry' called 'Puducherry' because 'Pudu' in Thamizh means 'new'. This is what the Thamizh historian R. Thirumurugan has got to say. Pudu as an adjective has given rise to Pudupattinam, Pudukkottai, Pudupettai, Puddakaram, Pudur are some of the names of places available in the Tamil land.

18.13 hrs. (Shri Giridhar Gamang *in the Chair*)

The Danish called Pondicherry 'Polosharay', the Dutch called 'Poleycherry', the French called it 'Pudaishaira', then 'Pudishairee' and then 'Poudicheri'. It is this 'Poudicheri' that became Pondicheri in due course. At the hands of the Britishers Pondicherry came into existence.

The reference to the name 'Puduvai' is found in Tamil literature too. Coimbatore is called 'Kovai'. Similarly, 'Tirunelveli' is called 'Nellai'. Thanjavur is called 'Thanjai'. Similarly, 'Puducherry' was being referred to as 'Puduvai'. During the period of 'Kambar' he was patronized by Sadayappa Vallal. The benefactor Sadayappa's father had his business in the coastal town 'Puducherry'. He had shipping business that is why 'Kambar' in his Kamba Ramayanam refers to his benefactor as 'Puduvai Sadayan', 'Puduvai Kodaiyan', 'Puduvai Trikartan'.

In Perunthokai, Puducherry is referred to as 'Tharu Uyarnthaidu Puduvai Ampathi.

Ananda Rangar who added glory to Puduvai refers to Puducherry as Puduvai in many places of his famous social history diary.

The second reason for which I support this Bill lies in the spirit of this Bill to respect the sentiments of the people of the territory. Many Tamil Scholars have been making this request for a long period of time. Pondicherry Legislative Assembly, the Representative House of the People of Pondicherry has passed Resolution in this regard not once, but thrice. After 26 years, now we find that aspiration is being fulfilled. The aspirations of the people of Pondicherry takes shape now when the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government at the Centre. This proves a point that this is a popular Government that translates its action, the will of the people and the Governance is for the people.

Puducherry is an inalienable part of French culture and is a cherished place of intellectuals. The world renowned philosopher Aurobindo lived here spreading the message of world unity and peace and social harmony. Only yesterday his statue was unveiled in our Parliament complex. It is fitting a tribute to alter the name Pondicherry as Puducherry the very next day after unveiling the statue. Remarkable freedom fighters like Mahakavi Subramaniam Bharti had their conclaves in this soil evolving strategies for uprisings against the British regime. The revolutionary poet Bharathi Dasan was born here and he lived and wrote his poems here in this soil. The souls of those great men will be rejoicing on seeing our move to change the name as Puducherry to ensure its ancient glory is brought back again.

While welcoming this Bill, I would like to put forth certain points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister.

(i). Instead of one year a period of 6 months would be enough to effect the change in names available in the records of the Government and elsewhere.

(ii). There are many central institutions and undertakings functioning in Pondicherry. For instance, Pondicherry Railway Station, Pondicherry Station of All India Radio must have their names changed to Puducherry.

(iii). Thamizh must be made official language in Puducherry both in Puduvai and Karaikkal.

(iv). Thamizh must be made medium of instructions as it is available in Thamilnadu.

(v). Those who have studied Thamizh and learnt the language must get priority in job opportunities and employment.

(vi). In order to give a pick to all round development of Puducherry, Puducherry must get special State hoot. The Centre must also consider extending B-2 status to Puducherry. Identifying and extending due recognition to the tribal people in this territory must be taken up by the Centre.

(vii). Karaikkal that come under the Puducherry Union Territory must be declared as a backward district and a special package must be worked out to ensure economic development in that backward region.

Having expressed my heartfelt thanks and suggestions, let me conclude my speech.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Mr. Chairman Sir, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I rise to support the Pondicherry (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006. The Pondicherry State was comprising of parts like Pondicherry and Karaikkal in Tamil Nadu, Enam near Andhra Pradesh, Mahe near Kerala and Chandranagar near West Bengal. These pockets were under French domination, but later Chandranagar was merged with West Bengal and the remaining pockets form part of Pondicherry State.

The State of Pondicherry has got a rich and historical background. Long ago, it was ruled by the great Chola Kings and Pandiya Kings who were known for their bravery, culture and best administration. So many beautiful temples were built in Tamil Nadu during their regime. Then came Kallapiran. They were followed by Pallavas and then it came under Dutch domination, followed by the French people.

In 1954, it was liberated from French domination. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru used to call Pondicherry as the window of French culture. Even today, there are more than 10,000 French people in Pondicherry. They have got very good relationship with the French Government.

One may think that there is nothing of importance or significance in changing the name of Pondicherry into Puducherry. I wish to cite certain examples. Bombay has now been renamed as Mumbai. Likewise, the name of Calcutta has been changed to Kolkata. The name of Madras city has been changed to Chennai. In the world level also, Peking has been changed to Beijing; Burma has become Myanmar. Only to maintain the tradition and heritage of the city or the country, the above-mentioned names have been changed. Therefore, there is every reason and justification to

change the name of Pondicherry to Puducherry. Even today the name 'Pondicherry' is popularly known as 'Puduvai' denoting Pondicherry.

Sir, I recall with pride our great national Tamil poet Shri Subramania Bharathi who by his patriotic and emotional songs inculcated the thirst for freedom to escape from the clutches of British law, flew to Pondicherry which was under the French domination. So also, another patriot Shri Subramania Siva also took his asylum to Pondicherry when he was charged by the Britishers. The great Aurobindo who waged war against Britishers during freedom struggle started his Ashram at Pondicherry. Even today, the presence of Ashram is remembered not only by our countrymen but also it has got universal reputation. Hundreds of pilgrims are pouring in the Ashram to get mental solace and tranquillity. During the freedom struggle, the State of Pondicherry was used as a place of protection and security for the freedom fighters.

Sir, Pondicherry is a small and beautiful State which is known for its uniqueness, greatness and culture. The Government of India has got very soft corner for this tiny State and a number of institutions have started in the State. I am proud to state that Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, which is known as JIPMER, is doing yeoman's service to mankind.

If I am correct, when Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister, there was a proposal to merge Pondicherry with Tamil Nadu. The people of Pondicherry rose to the occasion and fought for the maintenance of their special identity. In the year 1980 also, the Pondicherry Assembly passed a resolution for renaming and again in the year 1997 a similar resolution was passed by the Assembly. I am very happy now that the Rajya Sabha has passed the Bill. On this historic day, under the able guidance of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of UPA, this historical Bill is brought. I feel proud and happy to support the Bill renaming Pondicherry as Puducherry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got a long list, therefore, kindly restrict your speech to two or three minutes.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), I would like to welcome and support this Bill that has been introduced in this august House to legislate and change the name of Pondicherry to its ancient glory name Puducherry. Let me congratulate all those who have taken serious and sincere efforts in this regard.

The colonial regimes in India have destroyed many proud heritage treasures. Several ancient towns and cities have got their names changed in a defacing manner.

For instance, we find still all over the country several towns and cities that have lost their face because of the change of names brought about by the colonial rulers. Recently, the trend is that those old glorious names are again brought to the fore. Madras has become Chennai, Trivandrum has Thiruvananthapuram, Calcutta has become Kolkata, Bombay has become Mumbai. In making efforts to retain the earlier names in lieu of the colonial names that remain as colonial hang over Kerala has done a splendid job. They have changed the names of many towns bringing back to coinage the ancient names. I would like to appreciate the spirit of the people of Kerala who have changed Quailon to Kollam and Calicut to Kozhicode. Thus, they have changed many names of towns in their State.

Still we find the colonial hang over. For instance, we seek to change the name Pondicherry (the name given by the colonial rulers) to Puducherry in the independent India. Puducherry can now regain its ancient glory. As far as Puducherry Union Territory is concerned, it has got many things to boast of. But, I would like to point out just two of them.

In my opinion, no other State in India has got such a recorded social history as it is found in Pondicherry in the form of Anandarangam Pillai Diary. That influential and scholarly Anandrangam Pillai was a 'dubashi' with the French

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

colonial rulers. He was both an Interpreter and an Accountant. He has given several minute details of social life available in the erstwhile Puducherry.

Secondly, I would like to refer to the dual citizenship which we have granted in the recent times about which we have been deliberating for the past two-three years. Whereas in Puducherry we find this dual citizenship and right to vote for the Parliaments of both the countries are with a considerable number of erstwhile citizens of France who are living there still. This dual citizenship is there in Pondicherry/Puducherry for the past 40 years and more.

It is only in 1962, Puducherry Union Territory was annexed to the Indian Union. The erstwhile French colony thereby missed the benefits of the first three Five Year Plans. Now, the people of that territory would like to have a full-fledged statehood along with this alteration of name. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government take into consideration the aspirations and the sentiments of the people of Puducherry.

Since, the benefits of first three Five Year Plans did not reach them and also since they were not being given the status of a full-fledged State, the Union Government must immediately grant a special statehood and allocate enough funds for the next five years to ensure proper development of State of that territory.

I also urge upon the Union Government to confer the territory the B-2 gradation which will benefit both the Government employees and the teachers. Let me again welcome the alteration of the name Pondicherry to Puducherry on behalf of CPI(M).

With this I conclude.

श्री गणेश प्रसाद सिंह (जहानाबाद) : सभापति महोदय, पांडिचेरी के नाम परिवर्तन के संबंध में जो विधेयक लाया गया है, मैं उसका पुरजोर समर्थन करता हूं। मैं इसका समर्थन इसलिए कर रहा हूं क्योंकि पिछले कई दशक से पांडिचेरी की जनता की आकांक्षा, अभिलाषा की पूर्ति वर्तमान यूपीए सरकार द्वारा की गयी है। यह जो विधेयक लाया गया है, उसमें हर जगह से पांडिचेरी का नाम हटाकर पुदुच्चेरी नाम जोड़ा गया है।

सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMI (SRIPERIUMBUDUR) : Sir, on behalf of DMK, let me welcome this piece of legislation which brings about a historic change of name to the Union Territory of Pondicherry which will henceforth be called as Union Territory of Puducherry. It is one of the ancient towns of India and it was

rightly explained in detail by the Prof. Ramadass who spoke ahead of me. As a Member of Parliament from that constituency, he was ably illustrating its greatness tracing its history even from the puranic age.

This legislation is pertaining to a territory, a State in the Indian Union. But, unfortunately, we are being directed to complete this discussion in a short space of time. I am pained to point out that there are certain Members belonging to certain parties like BJP are bringing in totally unrelated matters before this House in the form of issues related to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and waste the time of the House. When so many hours continuously for so many days are wasted, it is unfair that we are not even permitted to avail of the minimum one hour duration allotted for this Bill. My question is why and how the time constrained is imposed on us? Change of the name Pondicherry to Puducherry might appear innocuous. But, the spirit behind is a moment of celebration for the people belonging to Tamil language and culture, who would like to dwell at length the long cherished tradition and history now. It is paining to note that we are as to wind up the moment we begin.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please adjust with Chair, please conclude within a minute.

*SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMI : We would like to put on record explaining to others the greatness of our place that finds place in the annals of history and we would like to explain that proudly in our mother tongue Tamil but, unfortunately, there is time constraint. I would like to point out that we Members from the Tamilnadu take less time while participating in the

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

deliberations. We do not resort to verbal wranglings and confrontations. We do not go for quarrelly arguments but we merely advance our arguments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please come to the point.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : I said that the Members from North India are consuming a lot of time to do some hullabaloo here but we are not doing like that. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (DEOGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has taken the name of BJP. How can he take the name of BJP? … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Whatever parties they may be, they are taking so much of time. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Krishnan, please take your seat.

… (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishnaswamy, you may please continue your speech.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (BANGALORE SOUTH): Sir, I want to submit that the entire House is with our brethren from Puducherry. We support it. There is no opposition from the entire House on this issue. Therefore, let the debate be non-partisan; we are all supporting this Bill because we also wanted Bangalore to be renamed as Bangaluru, like Madras has been renamed as Chennai and Bombay has been renamed as Mumbai. Therefore, Pondicherry should also be renamed as Puducherry.… (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, we are with you.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Krishnaswamy, please come to your point and try to conclude soon.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMI : Yes, BJP Members often rush to the well of the House and interrupt the proceedings on many occasions consuming the valuable time of the House. …. **(***Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Krishnaswamy, you please continue and you also conclude now because it will take two three minutes.

* SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMI : Our request to Chair is that bear with us. As far as this change of name Puducherry is concerned, it is a culmination of effort that commenced in the year 1980 when late lamented Smt. Indira Gandhi forged alliance with Dr. Kalaignr Karunanidhi our Leader of DMK, who is now the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. That demand passed as Resolution in that Legislative Assembly has now taken the shape of the Bill to be passed in this House as a historical legislation. This is a red letter day, because we are fulfilling what we promised after so many years of wait when we have the UPA Government at the Centre guided by the Chairperson of the UPA, Madame Sonia Gandhi. I wish the Puducherry Union Territory is conferred with statehood and carve its name in history. It is historically important because the great poets like Subramania Bharathi and Bharathi Dasan lived there. I welcome and support this Bill wholeheartedly and thank the UPA Government for this historical move. With these words I conclude.

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*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI M. APPADURAI (TENKASI): Hon. Chairman, Sir, let me thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on a Bill to alter Pondicherry Union Territory as Puducherry Union Territory. I welcome and support this move on behalf of my part Communist Party of India.

Puducherry is a historically important town down the ages and it is rightly explained by my esteemed colleagues who spoke ahead of me.

"**Aaduvome Pallupaduvome**

Anandha Suthanthiram

Adainthu Vittomendru",

(Lets rejoice sing and dance that we have won our freedom)

So sang the great national poet Mahakavi Subramaniam Bharthi long before we could really been independence. And that poet lived there in Pondicherry when he was exiled from the British Territory for his freedom movement activities.

If there is any poet who insisted on minimum wages and eight hours of work time as maximum time of work in whole of India, it is only the great revolutionary poet Bharathi Dasan. As a pioneer, it was Pondicherry Territory that introduced it for the first time in the country.

Our comrade Subbiah was known as the Nehru of Pondicherry and he had effectively participated in the proceedings of French Parliament. Such historical glorious legacy are there among the people of Pondicherry.

The long pending demand of the Pondicherry to change the name to Puducherry is being headed to now. I recall the glorious days when our comrade Subbiah walked tall in that Union Territory and he was fondly called as the Prime Minister of Puducherry.

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Now, the Government at the Centre supported by the Communist Party has sought to change the name Pondicherry as Puducherry accepting the demands of the people understanding their sentiments. I welcome this move by this UPA Government which has earlier accorded classical language status to our ancient language Tamil.

The Centre must not rest with changing the name of this Union Territory, but it must also come forward to confer full-fledged statehood to Puducherry Territory. Only then, we would have really honoured the sentiments of the people and the accord we have signed with the colonial rulers when we annexed this territory as part of the Indian Union. I urge upon the Union Home Ministry through the Hon. Minister of State of Home Affairs to confer the rights to the people of Puducherry to have their own State . Let me conclude my speech welcoming and supporting this Legislation to evolve Puducherry.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN (VANDAVASI):Hon. Chairman, Sir, on this occasion of changing the name of Pondicherry to its ancient name Puducherry through a Bill in this august House, you have given me an opportunity to speak, let me thank you for that.

After about 53 years, the change of name is being effected. It is a long pending demand that sees the light of the day now. In 1980, an Assembly Resolution was passed in this regard by the Legislative Assembly at Union Territory at Pondicherry. We are rewriting history now giving back to Puducherry its original name. The sentiments of the Tamil people living there has been respected through this move. I would like to thank the UPA Government on behalf of our party Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and on behalf of our General Secretary Revolutionary Storm VAIKO and also on behalf of the people of Pondicherry.

Puducherry used to be a part of Tamil homeland. Because of several invasions and the colonial occupations, it remained a separate territory and continues to remains so. Because of the machinations of the

colonial rulers, who went about to their suppurations and oppressions, our ancient glory was lost. It took so many years for Puducherry to be named as Pondicherry one after the other by the colonial rulers of different origins. In this independent India to which Pondicherry is a part now, it again took so many years to alter the name again to Puducherry. However, we have done it now. It is also called as 'Pondy'. I would like to point out that we got from the Puducherry soil, the seeds for the great Indian freedom. The impact of French Revolution was felt there in that soil. One of our great freedom poets Mahakavi Subramania Bharthi and the revolutionary poet Bharthi Dasan lived there. Subramania Bharthi along with his compatriot freedom fighters evolved strategies to rise against the British Regime hiding there

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

in the then French Territory. Through the adoption of this Bill, the ancient Tamil name Puducherry is being restored. Following the commendable move to declare Tamil as a classical language, this UPA Government has commendably done again to restore Pondicherry its ancient Tamil name Puducherry. I welcome and support this Bill.

श्री संतोा गंगवार (बरेली) : सभापति महोदय, हमारा देश सांस्कृतिक और ऐतिहासिक रूप से विख्यात है। हमारी परम्परा सदियों पुरानी है। इस पर हमें गर्व होना चाहिए, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि आजादी के बाद हम बहुत से ऐसे परिवर्तन नहीं कर पाए, जो आज धीरे-धीरे कर रहे हैं। उसी विरासत के तहत हम पांडिचेरी का नाम परिवर्तन कर रहे हैं। आदि-शंकराचार्य हों या जैसे अभी सुब्रमण्यम भारती जी की बात कही गई, उन्होंने देश को एक रूप से जोड़ने की प्रक्रिया में अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा की थी।

मेरे मित्रों ने जो बात कही है, मैं उससे सहमत हूं। कई और शहरों के नाम भी ऐसे हैं, जिन्हें दूसरे नाम में परिवर्तित किए जाने की जरूरत है। मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूं और उम्मीद करता हूं कि इस काम को जल्दी किया जाएगा।

पुदुचेरी शब्द का अपना अलग महत्व है। मैं भारतीय जनता पार्टी के माध्यम से यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि सरकार एक बार तय कर ले, क्योंकि हम टुकड़ों में शहरों के नाम बदल रहे हैं, जैसे मुम्बई किया, अब पांडिचेरी का बदल रहे हैं, बैंगलोर का भी बदलना है, इसलिए ऐसे जो भी नाम हैं, जो हमारी सांस्कृतिक विरासत और धरोहर हैं, उन्हें उसी रूप में प्रस्तुत करें और अपनी पहचान बनाने का काम करें।

मैं तमिलनाडु के मित्रों से कहना चाहूंगा कि यहां कोई विवाद का विाय नहीं है। लोक सभा में जो कुछ होता है, वह सौहार्द से होता है। हमें लगता है कि हमारे तमिल मित्र अपनी विधान सभा में, जिन को प्रदर्शित करते हैं, वहां जो प्रेम भाव प्रकट करते हैं, उसकी यहां उन्हें आवश्यकता महसूस नहीं होती है। इस सदन का अपना महत्व है। जिस प्रकार हम इसका संचालन करते हैं, उसका अपना एक नजरिया है, अपना एक तरीका है।

मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूं इस विश्वास के साथ कि जो दो-चार और ऐसे नाम हैं, उनका नाम भी शीघ्र परि वर्तित किया जाएगा।

श्री रामदास आठवले (पंढरपुर) : सभापति जी, पांडिचेरी का नाम पुढुचेरी करने का जो विधेयक माननीय रघुपति जी लाए हैं हम उसका समर्थन करते हैं। इसकी सन् 1980 में मांग हुई थी और वर्ा 1996 में असेम्बली में इसका प्रस्ताव पास हुआ था। जो नाम बदला गया है उसका हम अभिनंदन करते हैं। एनडीए के कार्यकाल में यह हो जाता तो अच्छा होता, अभी आपकी सरकार ने किया है, हम उसका समर्थन करते हैं। केवल नाम बदलने से काम नहीं चलेगा, इसलिए केन्द्र सरकार को उसके आर्थिक और सामाजिक विकास के लिए और ज्यादा पैसा देना चाहिए। तमिल भाइयों की खुशी में हम भी शामिल हैं। मराठवाड़ा यूनिवर्सिटी को बाबा साहेब भीम राव अम्बेडकर का नाम देने के लिए हमने 16 साल तक आंदोलन किया था। जब पवार साहब मुख्यमंत्री थे तब उन्होंने नाम दिया था लेकिन आपको बिना आंदोलन के यह नाम मिला है। आप आगे बढ़ों, हम आपके साथ हैं।

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (चायल) : माननीय सभापति जी, सदन में पांडिचेरी का नाम बदलकर जो पुढुचेरी रखा जा रहा है, मैं अपने दल की ओर से उसका समर्थन और हार्दिक बधाई, शुभकामनाएं देता हूं।

SHRI S. REGUPATHY : Hon. Chairman, Sir, we all feel proud to introduce and pass this historic Bill that seeks to change the name Pondicherry to Puducherry thereby renaming the soil of the valiant and worthy man like the great revolutionary poet Bharathi Dasan who sang,

“Sambodhaum Thamizh Padithu Sahavundum - En

Sambalum Thamizh Manandhu Vega Vendum”.

(Let me learn Thamizh till my last breath – and

let my ashes bear the fervour of Thamizh in it).

All the Members who participated in this discussion have welcome the move of the Government to have introduced this Bill to alter the name ‘Pondicherry’ to ‘Puducherry’.

Prof. Ramadass pointed out that the first Legislative Assembly Resolution was passed in Pondicherry as early as in 1980 when there was a Coalition Government led by DMK in Pondicherry. Now, after 26 years that is being translated into action in the form of this Legislation in this august House. We all feel elated and find it appropriate to effect this change now as a fitting tribute to our great Leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, the President of DMK and the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, who is also known all over the world as a great Tamil scholar who is to be conferred soon with ‘Tholkappiar’ award for his contribution to Tamil for more than 75 years.

Cutting across the party lines, all the Members who participated in the discussion welcomed wholeheartedly the move of this UPA Government to change the name of Pondicherry to Puducherry. The aspirations of the people of

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Pondicherry who will now be known as people of Puducherry is being fulfilled now and their sentiments have been rightly shared, respected and honoured by this august House, the House of the People.

Pondicherry is a name that came much after its being called Puducherry right from the beginning. When it was under the French colonial rulers, its name got changed. It was all due to the conclusion arising out of language and pronunciation skills.

Puducherry which was lost in the name of Pondicherry during the colonial regime, has been restored again in this independent era as part of our free country.

While welcoming the suggestions from the Members to develop Puducherry further, let me request this august House to pass this Bill unanimously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill to alter the name of the Union territory of Pondicherry, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.